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April 7, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We applaud the hard work by you and your colleagues at the FCC on the National Broadband Plan. Bringing high-speed Internet access to everyone and building the necessary infrastructure to make that possible will inspire innovation, build businesses, and create good jobs at a time we need them most. It appears that the FCC has presented a comprehensive plan with the potential to be a very positive step toward a better future.

The Massachusetts Smart Grid Innovators Collaborative is a group of independent entrepreneurs, technologists, academics and innovators committed whole systems thinking and smart grid investments as an open platform for energy innovation and consumer participation in energy markets. We are particular interest in assuring that broadband services reach every American household with sufficient bandwidth to achieve the national vision for the smart, modern grid in the twenty-first century.

With strong leadership and an appropriately supportive regulatory environment that encourages maximum innovation and investment from the private sector the plan and its benefits can be realized without the necessity of public funds and new burdens on taxpayers. Allowing this challenge to be pursued privately will spur innovation where we need it most, create businesses and employment, and create efficiencies that are the hallmark of our innovation economy.

I would urge you and the FCC to avoid unnecessary calls for more aggressive broadband regulations which will have the opposite effect and which could stifle the very private investment necessary to achieve the goals of the National Broadband Plan.

Thank you once again for the vision behind the National Broadband Plan and all it is intended to accomplish for the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Halpin", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Halpin, Founder and Executive Director  
Massachusetts Smart Grid Innovators' Collaborative